

Message Text

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42

ACTION EUR-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-05 OC-06 CCO-00 A-01 COME-00 OPR-02

L-03 SS-20 DRC-01 RSC-01 FSE-00 ABF-01 /047 W

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P R 251122Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8223

INFO AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS MOSCOW 6149

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, DPRO, UR

SUBJECT: PAYMENT FOR USE OF GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE AND TELEX

FACILITIES BY U.S. BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES

PARIS FOR RFC; DEPT FOR EUR/EX AND EB/ITP/EWT

1. EMBASSY PRESENTLY INVOLVED IN TIME COSUMING PROCEDURE
COVERING COLLECTIONS OF MONIES DUE FOR INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC
TELEPHONE AND TELEX CALLS PLACED BY U.S. BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES
OVER EMBASSY FACILITIES IN USSR. PROCEDURE CALLS FOR AMERICAN
EMBASSY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (AECA) TO FIRST PUT UP FUNDS
TO PAY THIS PORTION OF MONTHLY POST AND TELEGRAPH BILLINGS, THEN
AECA INFORMS ECONOMIC SECTION WHICH CORRESPONDS WITH BUSREPS
PARENT ORGANIZATION TO EFFECT COLLECTION AND REFUND TO AECA.
THIS SYSTEM IS NOT ONLY TIME AND MANPOWER CONSUMING, IT BUILDS
DELAYS IN REPAYMENT TO THE POINT THAT OVER \$1,300 DELIQUENT
PAYMENTS REMAIN OUTSTANDING TO AECA. EMBASSY AND AECA DO NOT
HAVE SUFFICIENT FUNDS AND PERSONNEL TO CONTINUE THIS PRACTICE.

2. IN EFFORT TO EFFECT PROMPT SETTLEMENT OF POST AND TELEGRAPH
COMMUNICATIONS BILLS WITHIN THE PRESCRIBED FIVE DAY GRACE
PERIOD ALLOWED BY SOVIET AUTHORITIES AND AT SAME TIME CONTINUE
PROVIDING COMMUNICATIONS ASSISTANCE AS ADVERTISED IN USDOC
PUBLICATIONS CIRCULATED IN THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY THE EMBASSY
PROPOSES THE FOLLOWING:

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A. PORTION OF TELEPHONE AND TELEX BILLINGS ATTRIBUTED TO U.S.

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVE USE WILL BE CHARGED TO DEPOSIT FUND 19X6875 SUSPENSE, DEPARTMENT OF STATE. AT TIME OF PAYMENT COPY OF COVERING VOUCHER WITH SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS SHOWING NAME OF CALLER, NAME AND PLACE CALLED, COST OF CALL OR MESSAGE, AND NAME OF PARENT COMPANY OF BUSREP FROM WHICH COLLECTION OF REIMBURSEMENT SHOULD BE MADE.

B. THE DEPARTMENT, ACTING ON THE INFORMATION FURNISHED BY THE POST, WILL TAKE STEPS TO EFFECT REIMBURSEMENT TO THE 19X6875 ACCOUNT.

3. IF THE ABOVE SUGGESTION IS NOT FOUND TO BE FEASIBLE THE EMBASSY FEELS THE ONLY ALTERNATIVE IS TO RESTRICT THE USE OF ITS FACILITIES TO ONLY THOSE BUSREPS PREPARED TO PUT UP LARGE DEPOSITS AT THE TIME EACH CALL IS MADE OR MESSAGE SENT. (A TEN-MINUTE CALL TO NEWYORK COSTS OVER \$35.00.) THIS WOULD SOON REACH A CHAOTIC STATE BECAUSE OF LACK OF POST AND AECA PERSONNEL AND FISCAL SECURITY TO HANDLE COLLECTIONS OF THIS NATURE.

4. THE DEPARTMENT IS URGENTLY REQUESTED TO CONSIDER THE ABOVE PROPOSAL AND ADVISE THE POST ASAP OF ITS DECISION SINCE THE PROBLEM IS RAPIDLY BECOMING MORE DIFFICULT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 APR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MOSCOW06149
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740097-1002
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740415/aaaaamls.tel
Line Count: 84
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 SEP 2002 by BryanSD>; APPROVED <31 DEC 2002 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PAYMENT FOR USE OF GOVERNMENT TELEPHONE AND TELEX FACILITIES BY U.S. BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES
TAGS: AFSP, BPRO, UR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005